



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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"A SALUTE TO SMALL BUSINESS"
NOMINATIONS FOR 2005 SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
AND SBA CHAMPION AWARDS

DEADLINE DECEMBER 3, 2004

Each year during National Small Business Week, the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recognizes outstanding small business owners for their contribution to the American economy and society. SBA is currently accepting nominations for the 2005 Small Business of the Year Award for Central California and for several "Champion Award" categories. The Fresno SBA Office services the fifteen Central California counties. Trade associations, chambers of commerce and business organizations frequently sponsor candidates. A business owner may also nominate themselves or other candidates.

Nomination criteria and submission guidelines for all award categories can be found at www.sba.gov/ca/fresno or by contacting Melende Ward of the Fresno SBA Office at (559) 487-5791, ext 143.

All nominees must be residents of and employed in the United States and will be subject to background checks. Small businesses owned and operated by nominees must comply with federal civil rights laws.

This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize an individual or an organization dedicated to the support of the small business community. Please send all nominations to the U. S. Small Business Administration, 2719 N. Air Fresno Drive, Suite 200, Fresno, California, 93727, Attn: Melende Ward. **Deadline for all nomination packages is December 3, 2004.**

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